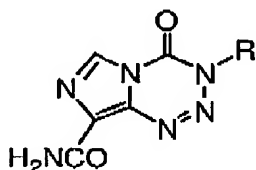


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Claim Listing.

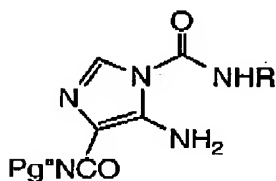
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application (note that amendments are **highlighted in bold**):

Claim 1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula:



wherein R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, which comprises:

(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula:



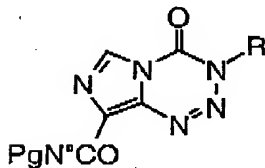
II,

wherein R is as defined above;

and Pg^o is a divalent protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or two monovalent protecting groups Pg that are readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or a bulky monovalent protecting group Pg that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, together with a hydrogen atom;

and thereafter

(b) hydrolyzing the resulting compound of the formula:



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Claim 2. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a straight-chain alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Claim 3. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 wherein R is a methyl group.

Claim 4. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 3 wherein Pg" is a monovalent protecting group together with a hydrogen atom.

Claim 5. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the monovalent protecting group is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group.

Claim 6. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 5 wherein step (a) is carried out in solution in an aqueous organic acid with a source of nitrous acid.

Claim 7. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the organic acid is acetic acid and the source of nitrous acid is inorganic.

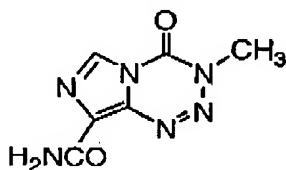
Claim 8. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the source of nitrous acid is sodium nitrite.

Claim 9. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of LiCl.

Claim 10. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 5 wherein step (b) is carried out by hydrolysis with a mineral acid.

Claim 11. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the mineral acid is concentrated sulfuric acid.

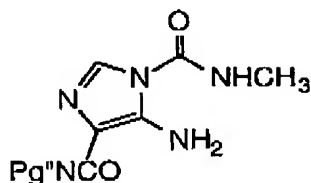
Claim 12. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 1 for the preparation of Temozolomide having the formula:



which comprises

(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula:

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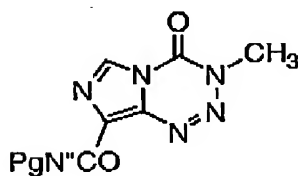


II,

wherein Pg" is a divalent protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or two monovalent protecting groups Pg that are readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or a bulky monovalent protecting group Pg that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, together with a hydrogen atom;

and thereafter

(b) subjecting the resulting compound of the formula:



III,

wherein Pg" is as defined above, to hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis.

Claim 13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the protecting group Pg" is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom, the diazotization is effected in solution in acetic acid with sodium nitrite and in the presence of LiCl;

and step (b) is carried out by hydrolysis with concentrated sulfuric acid.

Claim 14. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the compound of the formula II is prepared by reaction of a compound of the formula Pg"N.CO.CH(NH₂).CN (V) (wherein Pg" is a protecting group as defined in claim 1) with methyl[[[(methylamino)carbonyl]amino]methylene]urea or with N-methylurea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent.

Claim 15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein the compound of the formula V is prepared by hydrolysis of a compound of the formula

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$\text{Pg}^{\text{r}}\text{N.CO.CH(N:Ar).CN}$ (VI) (wherein Pg is as defined in claim 14 and Ar is an arylmethylene group) with mild acid.

Claim 16. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein Pg is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom, and Ar is a diphenylmethylene group.

Claim 17. (original) A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein the compound of the formula VI wherein Pg is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom and Ar is a diphenylmethylene group is prepared by condensation of [(diphenylmethylene)amino]acetonitrile with 1,1-dimethylethylisocyanate.

Claims 18-20 (canceled)

Claim 21. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula III set forth in Claim 1, which comprises diazotizing a compound of the formula II set forth in Claim 1.

Claim 22. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula II set forth in Claim 1, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{r}}\text{N.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ (V) with a compound of the formula $\text{R.NH.CO.NH.CH:N.CO.NH.R}$ or with an N-R-urea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent (wherein Pg^r is a protecting group as defined in claim 1 and R is as defined in Claim 1).

Claim 23. (original) A process as claimed in Claim 22, which comprises reacting a compound of the formula $t\text{-BuNH.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ with methyl[[[(methylamino)carbonyl]-amino]methylene]urea or with N-methylurea and an orthoformate in an inert organic solvent.

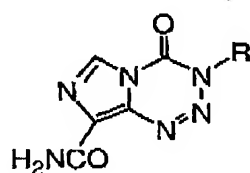
Claim 24. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{r}}\text{N.CO.CH(NH}_2\text{).CN}$ (V), which comprises hydrolyzing a compound of the formula $\text{Pg}^{\text{r}}\text{N.CO.CH(N:Ar).CN}$ (VI) (wherein Pg^r is a protecting group that is readily

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removable by hydrolysis as defined in claim 1, and Ar is an arylmethylene group) with mild acid.

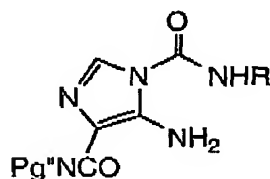
Claims 25-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (new) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula in the presence of LiCl:



R is a methyl group;

(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula:

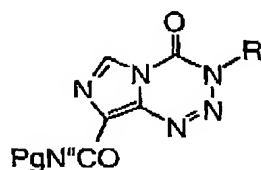


II,

in solution in acetic acid with an inorganic sodium nitrate;

and Pg" is a monovalent protecting group together with a hydrogen atom wherein the monovalent protecting group is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group; and thereafter

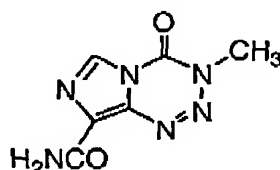
(b) hydrolyzing the resulting compound of the formula:



III.

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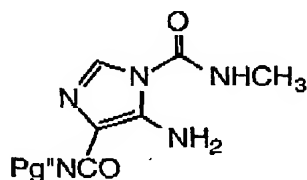
Claim 32. (new) A process as claimed in Claim 1 for the preparation of Temozolomide having the formula:



I,

which comprises

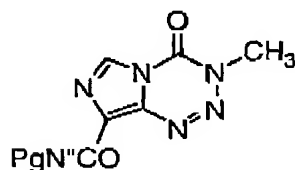
(a) diazotizing a compound of the formula in solution in acetic acid with sodium nitrite and in the presence of LiCl:



II,

wherein Pg' is a 1,1-dimethylethyl group together with a hydrogen atom,

(b) subjecting the resulting compound of the formula:



III,

wherein Pg' is as defined above, to hydrolysis wherein said hydrolysis is carried out with concentrated sulfuric acid.

Claim 33. (new) A process for the preparation of a compound having the formula Pg''N.CO.CH(NH₂).CN (V), which comprises hydrolyzing a compound of the formula Pg''N.CO.CH(N:Ar).CN (VI) wherein

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Pg" is a divalent protecting group that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or two monovalent protecting groups Pg that are readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis; or a bulky monovalent protecting group Pg that is readily removable by hydrolysis or hydrogenolysis, together with a hydrogen atom; and

Ar is an arylmethylene group, with mild acid.